

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 6 and 35. Please add new Claim 36.

A complete listing of the Claims and their status is as follows:

1.(currently amended) A grooming and washing mitt for a pet animal said mitt comprising:

a hollow flexible body having a flexible rear side co-extensive with a flexible palm side cleaning surface so that said hollow body is flexible with an open end for insertion of a hand into said body and a separate hollow thumb portion extending therefrom,

a built-in bendable, unencumbered fluid retaining reservoir for discharging fluid extending continuously within said body from a top of a distal fingertip end to a bottom of a proximal wrist end adjacent to said open end of said body, and transversely from one side to an opposite side of said mitt including extending into said thumb portion, and means comprising discharge ports for discharging fluid from said reservoir upon flexing of said mitt to form a concave configuration of said palm side pressurizing said reservoir causing said discharge ports to open;

said mitt having means on said palm side of said mitt for removing loose hairs on said pet comprising a predetermined denser pattern of flexible, solid nibs, said nibs also providing an effective massage, said denser pattern of nibs extending along a central median from said distal fingertip of said mitt ~~axially from said distal fingertip end~~ to said proximal wrist end of said mitt and

~~said denser pattern of nibs extending medially along a mid-line of said mitt.~~

2. (original) The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of discharge ports extends through a large portion of said palm side of said mitt, said ports discharging cleaning fluid over said cleaning work surface of said palm side of said mitt.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The mitt as in Claim 2 wherein said medially extending dense pattern of nibs consists of ~~includes~~ a row along said central median of a spaced plurality of nib patterns each having a central nib with a concentric rings of nibs surrounding each central nib ~~further plurality of concentric circles of nibs~~, for massaging and removing hair snags and loose hairs when a circular motion of said mitt is used, wherein said dense pattern of nibs provides a substantial force to be exerted against the hide of the animal without collapsing said nibs from a perpendicular direction extending from said palm side work surface of said mitt.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The mitt as in Claim 4 wherein said mitt further includes a reservoir filling port and an integrally molded stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port whereby said reservoir can contain cleaning fluid when said stopper is attached to said reservoir filling port.

7. (previously presented) The mitt as in Claim 6 further comprising a hanging tab for suspending said mitt therefrom.

8. (previously presented) The mitt as in Claim 7 wherein said mitt is molded of rubber.

9-34. (canceled)

35. (currently amended) The method of grooming and washing a pet animal comprising the steps of:

filling a mitt through a port with grooming fluid, said mitt comprising a hollow flexible body having a flexible rear side co-extensive with a flexible palm side cleaning surface so that said hollow body is flexible with an open end for insertion of a hand into said body and a separate, flexible hollow thumb portion extending therefrom, a built-in fluid retaining reservoir for said fluid extending continuously within said body from a top of a distal fingertip end to a bottom of a proximal wrist end adjacent to said open end of said body providing a predetermined pattern of flexible, solid nibs, said nibs providing an effective massage, said pattern of nibs being a series of rounded concentric rings of nibs, and transversely from one side to an opposite side of said mitt including extending into said thumb portion, means comprising crossed knife slits for discharging fluid from said reservoir upon flexing of said mitt to form a concave configuration of said palm side pressurizing said reservoir causing said crossed knife slits ~~discharge ports~~ to open, and means on said palm side of said mitt for removing loose hairs on said pet comprising a predetermined pattern of flexible, solid nibs;

closing said port to contain the grooming fluid within said reservoir;

placing a hand into said mitt;

placing said mitt on a pet animal with the palm side in contact with said pet animal;

bending said mitt to form a concave shape of said palm side to release fluid into contact with said pet animal; and

massaging said pet animal, collecting loose hair by said nibs.

36. (new) A grooming and washing mitt for a pet animal said mitt comprising:

a hollow flexible body having a flexible rear side co-extensive with a flexible palm side cleaning surface so that said hollow body is flexible with an open end for insertion of a hand into said body and a separate hollow thumb portion extending therefrom,

a built-in bendable, unencumbered fluid retaining reservoir for discharging fluid extending continuously within said body from a top of a distal fingertip end to a bottom of a proximal wrist end adjacent to said open end of said body, and transversely from one side to an opposite side of said mitt including extending into said thumb portion, and means comprising discharge ports for discharging fluid from said reservoir upon flexing of said mitt to form a concave configuration of said palm side pressurizing said reservoir causing said discharge ports to open;

said mitt having means on said palm side of said mitt for removing loose hairs on said pet comprising a predetermined denser pattern of a series of concentric rings of flexible, solid nubs, said nubs also providing an effective massage, said denser pattern of nubs extending from said distal fingertip of said mitt to said proximal wrist end of said mitt.